

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

The Rural District Council of Wath


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Wath.

Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1948, for the area of the Rural District Council of Wath.

The area comprising the Rural District of Wath is situated in the extreme South-West of the North Riding. It forms a portion of the boundary with the West Riding of Yorkshire, and is a purely agricultural district with no industrial concerns within it. Two-thirds of the area consist of rich bearing corn and roots land. The remainder is rich pasture. It is not well watered in the centre, there being a great scarcity of springs, or streams, but the major portion overlies the new red sandstone water bearing rock, with the exception of a marked geological 'fault,' which runs from the centre in an easterly direction, and which yields undrinkable water owing to its gypsum and pyrites constituents.

The River Swale runs full length of its Eastern boundary, and the River Ure is partly the Western side boundary, which at one point adjoins the City of Ripon.

The annual rainfall averages 25.27 inches.

Agriculture, the oldest and most important of all industries occupies the whole of this rural area. The majority of dwellers are engaged in one of the many branches of agriculture with its life-giving output for the National welfare in these present days of scarcity of food.

The rich nature and friable soil comprising the greater part of the district, together with to-day's high standard of scientific farming as practised throughout, gave an exceptional and bountiful yield of produce of highest quality.

The agricultural worker stood well up to the continuous strain of his toil and exposure, although, in my opinion, he fares badly as compared with those engaged in urban industrial works, both as to the quantity and variety, and also the lack of opportunities of securing extra heat-giving foods. There are no canteens or snack bars as supplied for the Miners or Factory Workers. He is still deprived of his pig and poultry, both of which were formerly his great food reserves for the heavy nature of his manual output.

Throughout the year, work was plentiful for all, but there was no shortage of workmen even at seasonal times,

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	17007
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	2130
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	553
„ uninhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Product of 1d. rate	...	£87-8-11½.					

Live Births :—					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	26	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	-
				Total	27	17

Still Births :—					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	-
				Total	1	1

Live Birth Rate 1948—20.6
per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Still Birth Rate 1948—0.93
per 1,000 total live and still births.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	10	10	20

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	-	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	-	
			Total	1	1	2

Death Rate, 1948—9.3.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Total Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	...	45.0
Illegitimate Children deaths under one year of age per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	500.0

					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Deaths from	Tuberculosis Respir. System	...	...		1	-
„	Cancer Buccal Cavity Uterus	...	...		-	2
„	Cancer, other sites	...	...		-	1
„	Diabetes	...	...		1	-
„	Intra Cranial Lesions	...	...		3	1
„	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	...	...		1	-
„	Measles	...	...		-	-
„	Whooping Cough	...	...		-	-
„	Diarrhoea	...	...		-	-
„	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...		1	-
„	Childbirth	...	...		-	-
„	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...		-	-
„	other Puerperal causes	...	...		-	-
„	Pneumonia	...	...		1	1
„	Heart Disease	...	...		-	3
„	other Digestive Diseases	...	...		1	-
„	other causes	...	...		-	2
„	Premature Birth	...	...		-	1

There were no cases of food poisoning and no epidemics of any illness, and in consequence no excessive mortality arose during the year.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS.

*A. FEVER :—

Council's Joint Hospital.

The Joint Fever Hospital is situated at Ripon, one mile from Council's boundary, and is jointly held by this Council—Ripon City Corporation and Ripon and Pateley Bridge Council.

There is ample accommodation in Hospital for Fever Cases.

B. TUBERCULOSIS :—

N.R. County Council provides all services for all branches of Tuberculosis cases.

C. MATERNITY :—

Full and efficient service provided by N.R. County Council.

D. CHILDREN :—

Ripon, Harrogate Hospitals.
Ambulance facilities available,

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

*A. Infectious Diseases Ambulance.

B. Non-Infectious cases and Accidents (separate Ambulance).

C. Maternity cases by the Ambulance (B).

*Both Ambulances are stationed at Ripon, and jointly provided by the Councils adjoining and Ripon Corporation.

**This information is not applicable after 5th July, 1948.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (a) F. STOCKTON GOWLAND, Solicitor, Clerk to Wath R.D.C., 5, Finkle Street, Ripon. Telephone Ripon 576.
- (b) T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Topcliffe, Thirsk. Telephone Topcliffe 230.
- (c) WILLIAM WATSON, A.M.I.C.E., Cert. R.S. Inst., North End, Northallerton. Telephone Northallerton 164.

NURSING.

Four N.R.C.C. District Nurses practice daily throughout the area.

All Notifiable Infectious Cases were removed to the Council's Joint Isolation Hospital at Ripon.

The above four District Nurses practice as Midwives throughout the Council's area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These were efficiently and promptly supplied by the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton, under North Riding County Council direction.

Regular and methodical use was made of these for Bacteriological examination of drinking water.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During past years immunization has been carried out throughout the Council's area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There are eleven townships in the Council's area, all of which have a piped supply of drinking water.

One of these is privately owned.

Three townships had a constant and pure and ample supply as they were provided by a main from the Thirsk Water Company. The privately owned supply along with the other Council owned supplies were regularly submitted to the N.R. County Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton for Bacteriological examination.

WATER.

COUNCIL WATER SUPPLIES.

The *Marton-le-Moor* drinking supply became property of the Council. After some alteration this supply began and continued to give satisfactory and good bacteriological reports, and former trouble did not recur in the year.

Rainton Village supply, a very old and somewhat primitive one, also gave satisfactory reports, but it was predicted that the quantity and gravitation would not be sufficient for the new houses to be erected at Rainton, and in addition its vulnerability to pollution at any time.

Wath Village Bore and Reservoir continued to give full satisfaction all the year.

Melmerby Village supply which supplies Melmerby village and the Ministry of Supply Works, also Baldersby Village, was ample and satisfactory all the year.

Hutton Conyers supply frequently had attention, but was corrected each time.

Middleton Quernhow which supplies this small village is privately owned, became improved and gave satisfactory reports later in the year. The hamlet of *Baldersby S. James* was supplied by one pump. 'Marvellously' it each time gave no contamination, notwithstanding its nature of an open and old well. However it is useless to supply this hamlet and adjoining large farms, and the Council endeavoured all ways to evolve a scheme for a new supply from the Melmerby source on the West and the Thirsk Water Company on the East side. Neither of them could guarantee sufficient water for this hamlet. Later, the Council on the advice of their Consulting Engineer, considered the possibility of a large bore into the new red sandstone nearby and fitted with electrical pump.

There are eleven houses and one Elementary Mixed School, and two large and highly productive farms close at hand. It had always been the Council's hope and intention to group the supply for Baldersby S. James with a new supply for Rainton, but this did not materialize as the Thirsk Water Co. could not guarantee the quantity required for both villages.

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Source of supply of water.</i>
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Asenby—Main from Thirsk Water Coy.

**Baldersby*—Extension pipe service supply from Melmerby $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
The supply was ample and pure.

Baldersby St. James' Hamlet—Eleven houses, one Elementary School, one pump and open well supply though very limited was constant, and slight contamination once in the year; very vulnerable at all times.

Cundall—Main from Thirsk Water Coy.

Dishforth—Main from Thirsk Water Coy.

**Hutton Conyers*—Land spring, ram, reservoir, piped supply.

**Marion-le-Moor*—Bore, pump reservoir on site and piped supply.

**Melmerby*—Springs, pump, reservoir, piped supply, good elevation, supplies Ministry of Supplies Works nearby, and the Ministry in return supervise and works the supply for the full benefit of Melmerby and Baldersby villages.

Middleton Quernhow—Bore; pump, reservoir, good elevation, quarter mile piped supply to village.

Norton Conyers—Ripon Corporation water main.

Rainton—Land spring, one mile flow to village, no filter, through pipes, and vulnerable by many years service, and a very small reservoir at head of village but not sufficiently elevated to give service properly over all the village and allow housing developments.

**Wath*—Bore, pump, reservoir, good elevation, piped supply, village close at hand.

* *Fully automatic electric pumping control.*

HOUSING.

The Council, anxious to carry out their original fixed programme, were occupied in completing the erection of the remaining ten houses of the previous year's allotment of 12—four at Dishforth and four at Rainton. Two at Melmerby were finished and occupied during the year:

These 12 houses are of excellent design, with living room and parlour and three bedrooms, with plenty of light and all modern arrangements for the Council's economy and the occupier's benefit, and a great benefit to the villages possessing them. Towards the end of the year further allocation was noted, and preparation and inspection of new sites in the villages were carried out.

SCAVENGING.

The Council were able during the year to arrange for the scavenging service of the whole area for house refuse, but not contents of earth closets. These latter became less numerous during the year. The scavenging contract has been a boon to the inhabitants.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

No new or addition to sewers or Council drains were laid in the year.

DRAINAGE.

Each village has its sewage treated by tanks, and with the exception of Wath village, which has a very primitive sewage bed works. As would be expected, though each village gets rid of its sewage, and does not suffer itself yet this is only done by the escape of solid material out of the tanks which are far too ancient, small and inefficient to deal with the solid material, especially so, as often rain surface water gets into the sewer, and so escapes down ditches and small streams. This Council, like all other Rural ones, realize it is almost impossible to deal efficiently with the increased sewage material from the greater number of W.C.'s and baths now being installed in every village.

The Council instructed their Consulting Engineer to draw up a modern scheme for each village in the district to deal with its sewage and its treatment and disposal.

This was presented to the Council towards the end of the year. The estimated cost of treating the whole area of the Council amounted to £57,000 — that is to completely modernise and prevent pollution of streams. It was decided, on the Consulting Engineer's advice, to combine the villages of Melmerby and Wath into one scheme, and that this portion of the whole area be undertaken as the first work in dealing with the overall scheme for all the villages in the area.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are no Public Dairies in the Council's area.

A large quantity of milk was produced during the year. The bulk is collected and conveyed to a central depot. There are sufficient retailers and milk for the inhabitants of the area.

The quality and consistency of the produced milk was of the past years standard.

Cleanliness and observance of the regulations in force for producing and handling clean milk are, in some cases, far below the standard demanded by the Acts.

There is no excuse for this as a piped water supply has been provided to assist in the work in many instances ; also electric light is frequently available for the cow byres. Bedding is plentiful, and there is no shortage of labour ; also the remuneration now paid by the Central Authorities for the milk produced, makes the milk business a very lucrative one, and one which is so readily taken up by anyone who has premises and suitable land available.

Instances of want of personal hygiene or neglected cattle should be met by constant inspections and the Council enforcing the regulations either by warning or some "action." The consuming public demand clean milk production, and they are entitled to it. The town dweller generally has his milk which, though produced in rural areas, rendered sterile before consumption, whereas the rural consumer is supplied with milk in its raw state and without any previous treatment.

The rural consumer of milk continued to have for his consumption the untreated milk of the retail-producer as the only source available, which stands in contrast with the urban consumers' treated milk for protection.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS INSPECTIONS.

The Sanitary conditions of the Elementary Schools were examined.

The Sanitary Inspector reported one school—the Dishforth C.E. School—still remained in a very unsatisfactory sanitary condition, though adjoining the village water main, and any conversion was not faced with any difficulty, or great expense. Certainly Dishforth is a most deplorable case, owing to pan closets being so close up to the school itself and walled in a narrow yard, without open ventilation, and so constituting conditions of a now happily remote sanitation as existed when these premises were erected over 100 years ago. Certainly pans are now in use, but these are considered to be more objectionable owing to this enclosed space, than the old rude earth closets of our forefathers.

Numerous appeals have been made in the past to those in charge of the premises to have them converted to water carriage, but no action was taken by them to remove this longstanding reflection on these school premises and occupied by your scholars.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR 1948.

Inspections made during 1948 for Wath R.D.C.—

House matters	...	...	...	...	...	64
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sewers and Sewage, Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	35
New Baths, Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
New W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	33
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Inspections, Vans and Premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	14
Petroleum Store	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	4
						<hr/> 219

Baths in New Houses	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s in New Houses	...	...	...	...	8

One Statutory Notice has been served and complied with.

COWSHEDS.

The cowsheds on the register are 33. They have been inspected during the year and generally found satisfactory.

The condition of the cattle in a few cases has not been all that could be desired, but there is a greater respect for the standard required and more attention is given.

The condition of the buildings is on a higher standard and lime washing is carried out.

The retail supply is now confined to fewer persons which helps to obtain better conditions in the premises.

The production of T.T. milk is increasing.

SEWERS.

Schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal have been prepared for the whole of the district, and plans have been received for a combined scheme for the villages of Melmerby and Wath.

SCAVENGING.

The complete scheme for collecting house refuse has continued throughout the year and appears to have been generally satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Eight new houses have been completed and occupied during the year and two more are in course of erection.

One farm worker's cottage has been renovated and enlarged and provided with bath with hot and cold water and W.C. and water laid on to the scullery sinks.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These slaughter houses are still out of use.

FOOD VANS.

These have been inspected when on their rounds and nothing has called for attention.

Inspections have also been made in the N.A.A.F.I. attached to the Dishforth Aerodrome and unfit food destroyed.

DAY SCHOOLS.

Inspection of the Day Schools was carried out and conditions found satisfactory ; the sanitary arrangements remain as previously reported.

One school at Wath remains closed. The Boys' School is still in use.

No improvement was made in the sanitary accommodation at Dishforth School.

WORKSHOPS.

The seven registered workshops were inspected, and lime washing was done.

OVER-CROWDING.

Over-crowding cases continue to exist without any hope of remedy owing to the shortage of better houses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. WATSON, CERT. ROYAL SAN. INST.,
Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	7	12	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	Nil	Nil	—	} Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ..	Nil	Nil	—	
Total ..	7	12	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	1	—	—	—

Water Inspector's Report

As Water Inspector to the Wath Rural District Council, in my first year of office I was busy on a complete overhaul of all Council owned water supplies.

Hutton Conyers.

New posts and railings were erected round the collecting tank and the Windmill pump, and the feed main from the springs to the collecting tank was repaired, with consequent conservation of water.

The spring chamber was cleaned out thoroughly, and another chamber was discovered, buried to a depth of three feet under the surface soil. This was cleaned out and bricked up to above ground level and fitted with a special cast iron cover and locking device. All buildings were cleansed and lime washed in the interiors and painted externally. Rubbish was cut down and burned at regular intervals.

Rainton.

Brick chambers were discovered buried under the surface soil, and were built up and provided with cast iron covers. A close watch was kept on the consumption in this village.

Wath.

The works were cleaned up generally and lime washed and painted.

Rubbish was mown at frequent intervals. The pump house building was converted into a workshop and depot.

Marton-le-Moor.

Cleaning and painting was done generally, and rubbish mown down.

No facilities existed for washing out the closed reservoir, and a washout drain was laid through the three feet thick concrete base of the disused open reservoir.

A new cover was fitted to the inspection hatch of the covered reservoir. Both the well chamber and the covered reservoir were fitted with strong locks.

Melmerby.

Part of the covered reservoir embankment was removed and the brickwork pointed up generally before replacement. All exterior metal work was painted.

General.

Attention was also given to the Wath Sewage Disposal Works. Rubbish was mown down and the settling ditches regularly cleansed.

Regular weekly inspections were made of all the Council owned water supplies, and frequent reading of all meters was carried out to keep a check on possible waste.

F. DODSWORTH,
Water Inspector.

